

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
Task Force for Regulation of Medication Aides
July 12, 2005**

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting of the Task Force for Regulation of Medication Aides of the Virginia Board of Nursing called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Lynne Cooper, Chair, in Conference Room 2, Department of Health Professions, 6603 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Lynne Cooper, Chairperson
Gregory J. Huber, R.N., M.S.N.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Woody R. Hanes, R.N., M.S.N., F.N.P.

STAFF PRESENT: Jap P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director
Paula B. Saxby, R.N., Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director, Education
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst, D.H.P.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Linn Arnett, Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge
Susan Bess, Williamson's Pharmacy
Sherry P. Broussard, R.N.C., Neighbor Care Pharmacy
Carolyn Inman, R.N., Sunrise Senior Living
Deborah Lloyd, R.N., Dept. of Social Services
Toni Parks, R.N., Medical Facilities of America
Christine A. Stacy, R.N., Adult Care Education Consultants, L.L.C.
Julie Wine, Administrator, Beth Shalom Gardens

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: The meeting began with introductions of the Board Members, Task Force Members, Interested Parties, and Staff. Elaine Yeatts gave an overview of the Legislation and a projected timetable for the promulgation of regulations related to medication aides and medication aide training. Ms. Yeatts also reviewed the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action and comment period time frames. The Task Force will need to provide recommendation to the Board of Nursing at its September 2005 Board meeting for standards of practice and conduct for medication aides and requirements for training programs.

Ms. Jay Douglas presented a summary of Medication Aide regulations and requirements from four other states, North Carolina, Maryland, Oregon, and New Mexico. The other states have requirements that the medication aide must first be a CNA and that the practice of a medication aide is supervised by a licensed nurse. Ms. Douglas also reinforced the goal of the task force to provide recommendations to the Board for standards of practice of medication aides and requirements for the training programs of medication aides in Virginia.

Dr. Paula Saxby presented a summary of the current regulations for medication administration training in Virginia (Excerpt from Chapter 20 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing). The new medication aide regulations and training requirements would only pertain to unlicensed individuals who work in Assisted Living facilities in Virginia, regardless of the size of the facility.

A summary of the discussion from the Task Force members, Interested Parties, Board members, and staff is as follows:

Discussion included comments about the problems with medication aides that currently exist in Assisted Living facilities, ranging from trainers not being well-trained to provide training to medication aides and not presenting the training in the appropriate number of hours to numerous medication errors in Assisted Living facilities by medication aides without appropriate documentation and regulatory authority and follow-up. Discussion continued with the importance of patient safety being stressed as an essential component of the new regulations. Some people voiced concern that the minimum number of hours for a medication aide program should be at least 40 to 48 hours in length. Other people felt that an additional 24 hours should be given for supervision and orientation at the facility. One person asked that the small group homes be considered as the training requirements for medication aides are being developed; and there was discussion that all types of Assisted Living facilities and their residents be considered as the regulations are being developed. There was unanimous consent that patient advocacy and safety, as well as increased patient acuity be considered. Discussion also included the importance of the development of a competency evaluation that would reflect a minimum competency for the medication aides, as well as standards for monitoring and oversight.

Ms. Elaine Yeatts presented a summary of the tasks to be completed for the development of regulatory language for medication aides and medication aide training and competency evaluation. The Task Force identified areas that they would like to work on and will get draft language and feedback to Ms. Yeatts by August 24, 2005.

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 7, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT: The Task Force meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Paula B. Saxby, R.N., Ph.D.
Deputy Executive Director, Education